



Reading Comprehension

7 questions	18 questions	20 questions	12 questions	15 questions	1 question
Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development	Reading Comprehension	Literary Response and Analysis	Writing Strategies	Written and Oral English Language Conventions	Writing Applications

These are the 6 CAHSEE Reading Comprehension Standards.

The CAHSEE uses 18 multiple-choice questions to measure these standards. Reading comprehension involves several skills, so this section of the Study Guide provides strategies to help you succeed.

You will be asked to read and understand informational documents such as textbooks, instruction manuals, articles, and letters. The test questions, all multiple choice, ask you to connect the information to related concepts and identify main ideas, supporting details, text organization, logic, and author's purpose.

These passages and questions are from a previous version of the CAHSEE. Read each passage and answer each question. After each question, a strategy is provided to help you understand and practice your reading comprehension skills.

8RC2.1 Compare and contrast the features and elements of consumer materials to gain meaning from documents (e.g., warranties, contracts, product information, instruction manuals). [1 question]

10RC2.1 Analyze the structure and format of functional workplace documents, including the graphics and headers, and explain how authors use the features to achieve their purposes. [3 questions]

RC2.4 Synthesize the content from several sources or works by a single author dealing with a single issue; paraphrase the ideas and connect them to other sources and related topics to demonstrate comprehension. [3 questions]

RC2.5 Extend ideas presented in primary or secondary sources through original analysis, evaluation, and elaboration. [3 questions]

RC2.7 Critique the logic of functional documents by examining the sequence of information and procedures in anticipation of possible reader misunderstandings. [3 questions]

RC2.8 Evaluate the credibility of an author's argument or defense of a claim by critiquing the relationship between generalizations and evidence, the comprehensiveness of evidence, and the way in which the author's intent affects the structure and tone of the text (e.g., in professional journals, editorials, political speeches, primary source material). [5 questions]

Read this passage from a previous CAHSEE administration and the discussion and questions that follow.

Slow Death of a Cave

An onslaught of tourists threatens the pristine grandeur of Kartchner Caverns

By Leslie Vreeland

- 1 One by one, the brown-eared bats squeeze through a six-inch hole and emerge into deepening twilight; an instant later, they have fluttered off to feed. At Kartchner Caverns, flocks of bats have repeated this ritual each summer evening for 40,000 years. But these days, with the advent of tourism, the bats are not the only creatures shuttling in and out of this labyrinthine world of darkness. Since Kartchner was opened to the public two years ago, tours have been selling out weeks in advance. So far the bats still appear to be thriving. But the cave itself may be dying.
- 2 Located just 30 miles north of the Mexican border in southern Arizona's austere Whetstone Mountains, Kartchner is a pristine example of a living cave, with formations that are still moist and growing. The brilliant orange, red, and gold stalactites and stalagmites in the caverns have been formed and fed during the past 200,000 years by rainwater that combines with carbon dioxide from the air and carbon from the soil, trickles through limestone, and finally seeps through the earth to deposit mineral-laden droplets.
- 3 The state of Arizona recently spent 12 years and \$30 million to turn this subterranean fairyland of spires, turrets, and shields into what officials have dubbed the Environmental Cave, taking pains to protect it from the potential damage caused by tourism.
- 4 Kartchner's formations depend on moisture, so humidity must be maintained at 99 percent or the fantastic structures will stop growing. A temperature variant of just half a degree can dry out the cave within weeks. But there's a scalding desert above and 500 tourists come through each day, so visitors must enter through two steel doors designed to keep hot air from seeping in. Misters spray the cave floor to keep it damp.
- 5 Visitors are treated to an impressive, if garish, display: At the end of the tour, in front of the grandest formation of all, the cave suddenly goes dark, New Age music swells, and dozens of pulsating lasers swirl about the towering Kubla Khan, a 58-foot-high column of sandstone. And that is part of the problem. The high intensity of the lights, say cave specialists, can cause algae to grow on the formations and dull them. The humidifying misters may be causing additional damage by disturbing airflow patterns, air temperature, and mineral deposits, and by disrupting the delicate ecosystem supporting the cave's various

life-forms. Despite protests from scientists, the misters now run around the clock—not 12 hours a day, as originally planned—to compensate for the unexpected impact of tourists. Yet, the cave is still drying out. One year after Kartchner opened, it was less humid and one degree warmer in areas where the public visits. (Despite several requests, officials failed to provide new data.)

- 6 Park officials have suggested that the cave is dry because of a recent drought and note that hard rains have since fallen and added moisture. Nevertheless, they have hired a paleontologist to assess the impact of tourism on the cave and to devise new ways to avert further damage. Ronal Kerbo, the National Park Service’s leading expert on cave preservation, remains optimistic but warns, “Kartchner will never be a pristine environment again. This is what happens when you open a cave to the public and say, ‘Come on in.’”

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21C

L121C009

Sample CAHSEE question

Based on information in the last paragraph of the passage, it is likely that in the future—

- A the public will return Kartchner to its original condition.
- B changes will be made to save Kartchner from further damage.
- C the state of Arizona will close Kartchner to the public.
- D other caves will be found near the Kartchner site.

Strategy

It is important to read the question carefully. Notice that it directs the reader to the *last* paragraph of the passage. The final sentence of the passage denies one of the options and the final paragraph admits that the cave is open to the public with *no* suggestion of possibly closing the cave. Another of the options is *not* discussed at all in the final paragraph. The correct answer should be easy to identify if you take your time and look for which option is the subject of the final paragraph.

L121C010

Sample CAHSEE question

What information from the passage supports the idea that the temperature plays an important role in the life of cave formations?

- A . . . brilliant orange, red, and gold stalactites and stalagmites in the caverns have been formed . . .
- B . . . visitors must enter through two steel doors designed to keep hot air from seeping in.
- C . . . hard rains have since fallen and added moisture.
- D . . . they have hired a paleontologist to assess the impact of tourism on the cave . . .

Strategy

Look for the *only* option that makes any reference to temperature – “...hot air...” Therefore, it is easy to eliminate the other options.

Sample CAHSEE question

Which statement can BEST be supported with information from the passage?

- A** Measures taken to protect Kartchner Caverns have not been totally successful.
- B** Visitors to Kartchner Caverns are from many other states and countries around the world.
- C** If Kartchner Caverns were to die, tourists would no longer want to visit there.
- D** Kartchner Caverns is very different from other caverns around the world.

Strategy

Be sure to read questions carefully. Although all four options might be possibilities, the question asks which is the *best* option. Some are *not* supported by the passage. The majority of the passage discusses experiments that do not always produce the desired results, such as unintentionally adding algae to “Kubla Khan” or changing airflow patterns by using humidifying misters.

Sample CAHSEE question

The passage provides the MOST information on the—

- A** causes of damage to Kartchner Caverns.
- B** location of Kartchner Caverns.
- C** inhabitants of Kartchner Caverns.
- D** age of Kartchner Caverns.

Strategy

Be sure to read questions carefully. Some facts in the options are only mentioned once in the passage. However, *most* of the passage discusses the causes of damage to the cave such as changes in temperature, moisture, lighting, and the effects of tourists.

L121C017

Sample CAHSEE question

Which of the following **BEST** represents the opposing forces present in this passage?

- A society versus progress
- B society versus nature
- C politics versus society
- D politics versus industry

Strategy

Caves are phenomena of nature. Look for the option referring to nature. Also, the passage discusses trying to balance the cave's delicate environment with the effects of people, "society," entering the cave. Lastly, always pay attention to emphasis words such as "best."

Read this passage from a previous CAHSEE administration and the discussion and questions that follow.

The Cellular Phone

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

This simple to use yet powerful cell phone will help you stay connected with family and friends—no matter the time, no matter the situation, no matter the location. Getting the most out of your wireless device couldn't be easier as long as you follow these basic instructions.

EFFICIENT AND SAFE PHONE OPERATION

1. Always be courteous to others when using your phone. If possible, move to a secluded location when using your phone.
2. Remember to mute the ring tone (see instructions) when you are in the company of others who do not wish to be disturbed.
3. Speak with your normal volume when the phone is in use.
4. Do not use the phone while driving.
5. Turn the phone off in health care facilities.

BASIC OPERATION

Turning the Phone On and Off

Press and hold ON/OFF until the phone beeps. The display window beneath the product logo and the keypad backlighting come on for about 15 seconds. To turn the phone off, press and hold ON/OFF until the phone beeps and the display goes blank.

Placing a Call

To place a call, the phone must be ON, and a system name must be present in the display window (*Home 1*, for example).

1. Enter the phone number by pressing the number keys. The numbers will appear in the display. If you enter a wrong number, briefly press CLR (clear) to erase it. Press and hold CLR to erase all digits you have entered.
2. Press YES. The word *Dialing* will appear in the display while the phone attempts to access the cellular system. When the phone accesses the cellular system, *In Use* replaces the system name in the display window, and *Call* replaces *Dialing*.
3. When the call is finished, press ON/OFF to end the call.

Answering a Call

When a call is received, the ring tone sounds. Then the message *Call Receive* flashes in the display; the display and the keypad backlighting flash; and the indicator light on top of the phone rapidly flashes green.

1. Press YES to answer the call. The words *Call Receive* are replaced by the call timer, and the words *In Use* are shown in the bottom line of the display.
2. Press and hold ON/OFF to end the call.

Muting the Ring Tone

To mute the ring tone without answering the call, press ON/OFF. *Call Receive* is still shown in the display window. You can still answer the call by pressing YES.

Making Emergency Calls

The phone was programmed with an emergency number (911) when it was manufactured. The programmed emergency number can be dialed and called at any time, regardless of any call restrictions you have set through the LOCKS menu.

DISPLAY MESSAGES

The following are messages typically seen on the display window of the phone:

Home 1

Cellular service is coming from your home service. The number (1 – 4) at the end of the message indicates the phone number you are using.

Roam

Cellular service is coming from a system other than the home system. The letter A or B is also shown with the Roam message to indicate if the roaming system is a type A or a type B cellular system.

Privacy

The cellular service is coming from a private system.

Call Receive

The phone is receiving a call.

Dialing

The phone is dialing the number shown in the display.

In Use

The phone has a call active.

Sample CAHSEE question**Which of the following is covered by this manual?**

- A** operating instructions for cell phone users
- B** the history and inventor of the cell phone
- C** buying additional cell phone accessories
- D** installing additional cell phone buttons

Strategy

This type of question is easiest to answer if you eliminate all the topics that are *not* discussed in a passage. Look for the overall purpose of the entire passage.

Sample CAHSEE question**Under which heading would one look to find information on how to mute the phone's ring?**

- A** Product Description
- B** Efficient and Safe Phone Operation
- C** Basic Operation
- D** Display Messages

Strategy

Keep in mind that the question is asking how to use a product, in this case, how to mute the phone's ring. An option describing a product is not the same as telling how to use a product. Although one option does refer to "operation," a careful reading shows that the option includes "safe" operation. This option goes beyond what the question is asking. Another option does not pertain to how to use the product. No doubt you were able to identify the correct answer.

L0206004

Sample CAHSEE question

What is the correct order for the steps to place a call with the digital phone?

- 1 Press NO/ON/OFF to end call.
- 2 Enter phone number by pressing numeric keys.
- 3 Press NO/ON/OFF until phone beeps.
- 4 When digits appear, press yes.

- A** 1, 3, 4, 2
B 3, 2, 4, 1
C 4, 3, 2, 1
D 2, 4, 1, 3

Strategy

In order to place a phone call, the first step should always be turning on the cell phone. Notice that there is only one option that begins with this first, most important step.

L0206005

Sample CAHSEE question

What should one do before entering a phone number?

- A Lay the phone down.
- B Turn the phone to mute.
- C Turn the phone on.
- D Activate the display window.

Strategy

Be sure you understand the proper sequence of steps in a process. The correct answer has to state the most essential first step.

L0206006

Sample CAHSEE question

What does the message *Roam* indicate?

- A You must dial the number again.
- B You have an incoming call.
- C You are not using your home system service.
- D You may not use the phone at this time.

Strategy

This type of question requires you to go back to the passage. In this case you will notice that the “Roam” section of the passage includes the phrase “...other than the home system.” This is very similar to the wording of one of the options.

Let’s move on to the Literary Response and Analysis Strand.
For more practice on these types of questions, go to the Released Test Questions at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.